Message Text

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SUBJ: TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON MONITORING THE
STRATOSPHERE; FRENCH VIEWS ON FUTURE OF
COOPERATION

REF: (A) PARIS 9248; (B) STATE 78702

1. AS MENTIONED IN REF A, THE FRENCH HAVE PROVIDED US THEIR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE AGREEMENT (ARTICLE XII), THE FUTURE OF THE WORK UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND STEPS TO REACH THEIR SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES.

A. THE AGREEMENT, PER SE, SHOULD REMAIN TRIPARTITE WITH ANNUAL REPORTS FROM EACH PARTY THROUGH THE FIVE YEAR MARK; FUTURE EFFORTS BEYOND THE FIVE YEARS TO BE JUDGED AT THAT TIME. UNCLASSIFIED

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B. THE COORDINATION OF NATIONAL WORK NOW GOING ON UNDER THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE OTHER INTERESTED AND ACTIVE GOVERNMENTS. THE INFORMAL FRENCH VIEW AT THIS TIME IS TO INFORM AND WELCOME OTHERS AT THE APRIL MEETING OF UNEP (AS A PILOT PROJECT ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLD VZONE ACTION PLAN) AND EXPECT

TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM 10-14 COUNTRIES WITH PERHAPS HALF OF THAT NUMBER WILLING TO ACTIVELY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM. THE FRENCH FEEL THAT 6-10 COUNTRIES WOULD BE WORKABLE, BUT 20 OR MORE WOULD BE UNWORKABLE AND NOT WORTH THE EFFORT. A MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS COULD BE HELD AT THE WMO TORONTO MEETING IN JULY. THE US, UK AND FRANCE WOULD MAKE THEIR ANNUAL REPORT TO EACH OTHER UNDER THE AGREEMENT AND THESE REPORTS COULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO OTHERS COOPERATING IN THE PROGRAM.

- 2. AS TO PROCEDURES, FRANCE IS ASKING THE UK (AND HEREWITH THE US) FOR ITS VIEWS ON THE ABOVE. ASSUMING THE US AND THE UK FIND THE GENERAL APPROACH ACCEPTABLE, THE GOF BELIEVES THAT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND IF NECESSARY A SMALL MEETING, A MINUTE OR INFORMAL NOTE COULD BE DEVELOPED OUTLINING THE ABOVE WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THIS CHANGE IN TONE OF THE WORK UNDER THE AGREEMENT. THE SAME PROCESS WOULD YEILD AN AGREED APPROACH TO UNEP IN APRIL WITH AN INITIAL TECHNICAL MEETING IN TORONTO OR ELSEWHERE AS AGREED.
- 3. FROM THIS EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW, THIS APPROACH MAKES SENSE. THE TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IS INTACT AND OPERATIVE TO SUPPORT ANY CONCERN REGARDING EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT ON THE STRATOSPHERE. VTHER COUNTRIES UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIVE IN SUCH WORK WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COORDINATION OF THE PROGRAMS AND ASSOCIATED INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. ANNUAL REPORTS, RATHER THAN SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS, WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL. THE FRENCH HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO HAVING THE TRIPARTITE MEETING, IF IT IS NECESSARY, IN PARIS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AND FAA'S REACTION TO THE ABOVE. UK VIEWS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. THE FRENCH VIEWS WERE RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF B; WE WILL AWAIT THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE PRIOR TO CONTACTING THE FRENCH. HARTMAN

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